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**MichiganApples.com**

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Michigan Apple Committee (MAC) in support of the NC-140 Regional Rootstock Research Project. This goal of this project is to enhance economically and environmentally sustainable practices in temperate fruit production by focusing on rootstocks. Since 1976, NC-140 has addressed a number of high-priority areas within the North Central Region as well as other parts of North America.

With the highly competitive international market, the demand for high quality fruit by consumers, the strong pressure to reduce chemical use and a need to enhance the economic efficiency of production, tree-fruit growers must look to economically and environmentally sustainable management schemes of production. Specifically, this project addresses high priorities defined by NCRA, within the crosscutting research areas of agricultural production, processing, and distribution, genetic resource development and manipulation, integrated pest management and economic development and policy.

On behalf of the Michigan Apple Industry, we support the NC-140 Regional Rootstock Research Project for this national award.

Sincerely,

Diane Smith  
Executive Director

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**Tony Blattner**  
Chair  
Lowell, MI

**Gary Bartley**  
Dowagiac, MI

**Michael Dietrich**  
Conklin, MI

**Damon Gleis**  
Hillsdale, MI

**Bob Gregory**  
Leland, MI

**Arthur Lister**  
Ludington, MI

**Mark Youngquist**  
Kent City, MI